

Northwest Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit
Upper Colorado Interagency Fire Management Unit

NEWS RELEASE

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Two prescribed burns planned on BLM lands in Eagle County

Federal fire officials are planning two prescribed fires this fall on Bureau of Land Management lands in Eagle County -- a 560-acre burn southeast of Burns, Colo., and a 1,200-acre burn north of State Bridge, Colo.

The burns are planned to occur sometime between now and the middle of October, depending on weather. The burns will only be initiated if conditions are ideal for safe and effective fires.

Both fires are planned to improve wildlife habitat and ecosystem health as well as decrease the amount of fuel that has built-up in the areas.

The prescribed fire three miles southeast of Burns is planned in mountain shrubs and pinyon-juniper on lands managed by the BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office. It's the latest of several prescribed fires in this area over the past several years.

The other burn, planned one mile north of State Bridge on Yarmony Mountain, is the first burn in a multi-year project covering 2,396 acres. This burn will be primarily in sage and pinyon-juniper on lands managed by the BLM Kremmling Field Office.

Each prescribed burn has a detailed fire plan developed in advance along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from the State of Colorado.

These fires should improve wildlife habitat by stimulating new, more nutritious plant production in the burned areas. Because the fires should leave a patchwork of burned and unburned areas, wildlife will have better areas to feed but also continue to have areas of unburned vegetation that will provide important hiding cover.

Since these areas haven't burned in a number of years, a large amount of fuel for wildfires has built-up. These burns will decrease that fuel load, helping reduce the risk of a much larger, unwanted wildfire.